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OCTOBER 15, 2022 | VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 20

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Rooted Exhibition RE:CLAIMS the
court system. **Page 6**

TRE
MCALISTER
#519

ASK YOUR
VENDOR:
WHERE IS THE
BEST SLICE OF
PIZZA?

PAGE 3

GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.



Zach Storey, known publicly as the
Violin Monster, holds up Ann Arbor's
Unarmed Crisis Response Commu-
nity Survey after dropping them off
at the Groundcover News office.

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A case for unarmed response. **page 4**

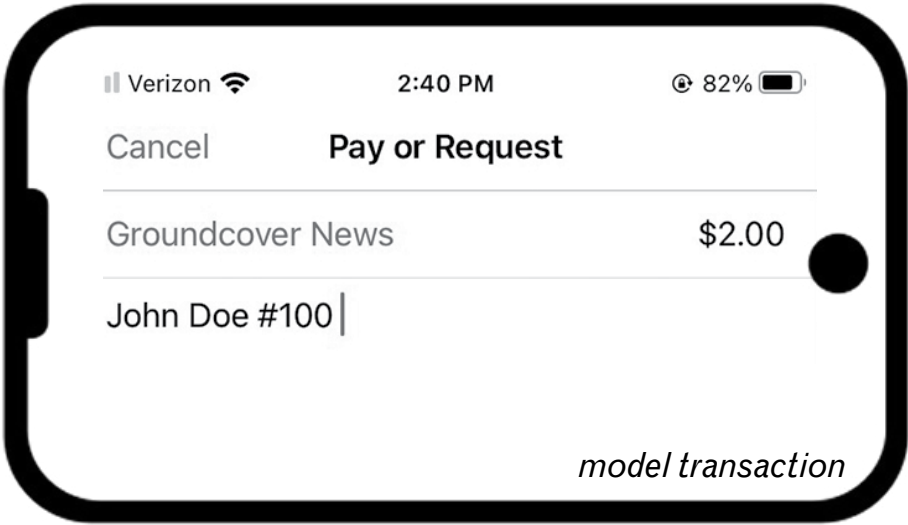
from the **DIRECTOR's DESK**



Groundcover News is a Washtenaw County street newspaper. Yes, that's right; flip to the front cover and you'll see "Washtenaw County, Mich." right there under the logo. The coverage of our paper encompasses news and solutions across the county, particularly Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Issues of homelessness, housing insecurity and poverty certainly have unique circumstances in these different localities, but most services operate at the county level. The displacement and movement that people experience to make

ends meet happen at this scope, too. The Groundcover News office is located in downtown Ann Arbor, which makes it very convenient for our vendors to sell the paper right around that area. These two realities lead to the assumption that Groundcover News is an Ann Arbor paper. This fall we are taking steps to have equal newspaper distribution in both cities, and eventually hope to have newspapers available in as much of the county as possible. A majority of the staff and vendors live in Ypsilanti and we want our readership to be closer to that, too. If you live in Ypsilanti, frequent there, and know of a place or event that might be a good spot for selling, please reach out. If you own or work at a business that would be happy to have a Groundcover vendor selling out front, do the same. Look for Groundcover vendors at the Ypsilanti Farmers Market, Ypsilanti Food Co-op and First Fridays. Tell them you're glad they're around!

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GROUNDCOVER NEWS

CREATING **OPPORTUNITY** AND A **VOICE** FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE WHILE TAKING ACTION TO END HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY.

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed. Vendors purchase each biweekly copy of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes towards production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale. Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. We are proudly a member of the International Network of Street Papers.

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1/2	\$375.00	\$500.00	5 X 13 or 10.25 X 6.5	Only run for two weeks/one issue: 40% off
full page	\$650.00	\$900.00	10.25 X 13	Additional 20% discount for money saving coupons

ASK YOUR VENDOR
Where is the best slice of pizza?

It's a toss up between Mr. Pizza and Domino's. Domino's has extra pepperoni.
— Hal Klenk, #88

Ham and sausage from Domino's or Hungry Howies.
— B-Man, #172

Little Caesars.
— Joe Woods, #103

Joe's Pizza and NYPD. Joe's has the best sauce and NYPD has the best crust.
— Jay Gordon, #533

Joe's Pizza.
— James Tennant, #174

Jet's Pizza ... doesn't matter what kind.
— Sean Costello, #577

If I were to have a pizza it would be mushroom and black olive. If you want a good pizza, get a job at a pizza place and make your own. If you're disappointed, you have no one but yourself to be mad at.
— James Manning, #16

Palio.
— Larzell Washington, #128

Shrimp and pineapple from NYPD. Or Mani!
— Tre McAlister, #519

Cottage Inn. I know its a little strange, but I like the combo of hamburger, pineapple, olives and mushrooms.
— Cindy Gere, #279

Pepperoni pizza from Domino's.
— Denise Shearer, #485

I don't have a favorite pizza place. I'm moving away from pizza. Vegetarian pizza if I have to pick!
— Ken Parks, #490

White pizza from PizzaPapalis.
— Christopher Ellis, #483

What would YOU ask?

If you have a question you would like Groundcover vendors to answer in this column, email us at contact@groundcovernews.com

We will be featuring vendor responses in future issues.

The good in Halloween

Halloween is God's and Jesus's time to give people harvest-time treats. For me, it can be a time to know that you need to live good and be close to God, and Jesus too. Halloween is a time to smile, laugh, relax, and enjoy the treats. It is also a fun time to have coffee, tea, and hot dogs (remember I wrote this in a past poem?!) But most of all, it is a time for children and adults of all ages to have fun. One good thing about Halloween is you can be who you want to be. When I was a kid, I wore different costumes. We would make them up on our own from what



we had. I would put on a funny wig or mismatch my clothes. When I was an older teenager, I remember trick-or-treating with my best friend. Halloween is a good time to

watch "The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown!" I remember watching this movie when I was a kid. I love all the Charlie Brown movies. I look forward to these movies on the holidays. On Halloween it's fun to go and get cider and donuts and candy! I would go with different groups of people I knew to go get cider and donuts at a nearby apple orchard. Sometimes we would pick apples. We all had a lot of fun. I have happy memories of how excited I was for this fall activity. Halloween is a good time of year. I'm looking forward to celebrating it this year.

Truth or lies: Zachary the Spider

"Being eight was not so hard," I thought. I still got to chase up and down the block with the crew. We knocked over garbage cans every week; and we were planning a great egg toss at the witch's house this Halloween. Nothing changed but the grade level I say. I was the typical eight-year-old, planning for Halloween. I could not decide between Spiderman or a BumbleBee the Transformer costume. The contest for who has the best costume, between me and my friends, was just two weeks away. It was Friday and I knew my mom would be waiting for my answer.

Arriving home from school, I saw my mom was waiting. She asked me, "How was your day at school?" I replied, "Great mom," while trying not to linger because I knew the next question. I was thinking I still needed time to decide which costume would win this year. Mom did not hesitate to ask the question: "Owen, you know I need to get your costume this weekend. They will be out of the cool ones." I replied, "Mom I can't decide yet, I need more time." My mom said, "You have until the morning when I go shopping; make up your mind." Mom got up early, rustling around in the kitchen calling me for breakfast. During breakfast I broke the silence and told mom I decided to go with the BumbleBee transformer costume because it changes into a Chevy Camaro. While we were out shopping I



asked mom when we were going to the Pumpkin Patch. Mom said, "Next weekend. You can't buy them too early; they will rot before Halloween." Finally it was the last weekend before Halloween, "pumpkin picking day." Friday after school dad was driving and mom was saying she could not wait to pick the pumpkin. She loved Halloween costumes, pumpkin carving and the yard decorating. I was in the backseat dreading the visit to the witch's house. I was thinking maybe she won't recognize me, the bad boy who kicks over her cans every week, one of the kids who toilet-papered her house and car last year. If my parents knew I would be grounded every Halloween for life. Dad parked the car. Mom got out first and we followed her down the path. I did not see the witch; I was glad - then out of nowhere she appeared ... floating in a cloud of smoke, looking scary as ever. My stomach dropped and I was shaking; I ran behind my dad to hide. Then mom said how about that

one and those two over there. I quickly agreed just to hurry up and leave. She looked so real with those creepy black fingernails, that long crooked nose with a big black bump on the tip, those glaring green eyes that turned black then green again. She looked so old, her hands and face were wrinkled. Dad offered to get the pumpkins. However she insisted that she must cut them from the vines herself. While she was getting the pumpkins I noticed her whispering. If only I could hear her, what is she up to? I kept thinking about all the smoke, how could she float, and where were the tracks? She put the pumpkins on the table and dad paid for them. He grabbed two, leaving one; he said, "You grab it!" Just as I was grabbing it she put her hand on the pumpkin, stopping me cold. I almost wet my pants. She was so cold, I did not want to look up at her. Completely terrified I snatched it with all of my might and ran to the car. Did she know who I was? I wondered all the way home. When we arrived at the house we put the pumpkins on the dining room table. After dinner I hurried and took my bath, went to bed still scared from earlier. I heard something under my bed saying, "Don't carve the pumpkins for your life will change!" I was already frightened, am I hearing things now? I did not dare to move, I just went to sleep not moving or

A case for unarmed response

Zach Storey, aka “The Violin Monster” from Ann Arbor, was homeless a few months during the winter of 2019. Sleeping on couches, in his vehicle, the Delonis Center, and at the church rotation quickly got old for him.

Storey, 38, says “I was uncomfortable with that because I felt trapped.”

As background, he explains, “In October, 2017, in Livonia, Michigan, I was in a mental health crisis. I had not slept in a week and my perceptions of reality were off. I was perceiving cars speeding down my residential street while I saw kids walking to school. I went outside and chased the cars with a letter opener and a Pokemon toy. That is when the police were called.”

“My dog was with me, circling me and being protective. My neighbor, concerned for the dog, approached me. She was not threatened, she was concerned. Then the police came. They surrounded me and began shouting commands which only aggravated my condition. I was confused and couldn’t comply with their demands.”

Storey doesn’t remember being tased.

“I remember them reaching for their belt. I thought they were getting their guns. Then I physically remember them surrounding me and manipulating my body. My condition worsened. I knew what was happening, but was unable to respond.”

Storey knew he needed help, but the police made it worse.

I asked Storey about the project he is working on to address this issue of excessive force from the police.

GCN: What is the Ann Arbor Unarmed Crisis Response Team?



JIM CLARK
Vendor manager

ZS: It is someone you could call that is not affiliated with law enforcement.

It’s staffed with mental health professionals that would respond to a mental health crisis, homelessness, and substance abuse overdose among many other possible challenges to safety. The types of things the team can respond to that police are usually called for.

They would be better equipped than the police to manage mental health crisis situations.

GCN: This sounds similar to other crisis services like MAP or PATH, how is it different from those?

ZS: Definitely about taking police presence out of the equation; however, this is exactly what the survey is for. We want to know if there are gaps in the resources available and create a team that is equipped to address those.

GCN: Tell me about the survey.

ZS: The pilot is a program funded by the city’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. It’s available online — go to a2gov.org and search “unarmed crisis response” and the survey will pop up. The best way to learn about the program is the city’s website tinyurl.com/mr46by57. There

is another link that will take you to the survey. I do have paper copies at the Groundcover News office.

GCN: What will this program do for the community?

ZS: That is what the survey is about. We need to know where the gaps in services are. The team needs to be informed as to exactly what the community is saying it needs. Right now, the best the city can do is send police to respond to mental health crises from a law enforcement approach. We need first aid, not incarceration.

The city needs to find out how to tailor the program to meet the needs of the community. Especially those who do not have a voice in government needs to hear from people who need non-violent aid in a crisis situation. The more we speak up, the better.

GCN: How have you been since your homelessness episode?

ZS: I’m doing okay now with my

current housing arrangement, but my rent is so high, I’m not eating properly.

The anxiety from waiting for stable, affordable housing is interfering with day to day life. I’m in the process of getting a housing voucher. It’s been over a year, but I’m in the last stages. The landlord has to do maintenance before I can move in, which may take 4-6 weeks.

GCN: Last question: If you could ask for the best possible way to help, what would it be?”

ZS: To get people to respond to the survey, especially the homeless community, and get involved in the process. The survey is just the beginning; it will be so much more when the community gets involved.

Author’s note: The Coalition for Reenvisioning Our Safety (CROS) is a group that advocates for a non-violent response team.

www.reenvisionoursafety.org/

How would an unarmed crises response program best serve the Ann Arbor community?

As directed in Resolution R-21-129, the City of Ann Arbor is tasked with exploring opportunities for an unarmed response to public safety calls in the city. The City of Ann Arbor is conducting a community survey on the goals, design, and implementation of an unarmed crisis response program. To ensure as many people as possible can access the survey, physical copies are available at the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, the downtown branch of the public library, and at the city clerk’s office. Additionally, a printable version is available on the City Administrator’s webpage. Physical copies of the survey can be mailed or dropped off to the city clerk’s office located on the second floor of 301 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

The survey will be available until 4 p.m. on Friday, November 4. Take the survey online at www.opentownhall.com/portals/116/Issue_12145

➡ **SPIDER** from page 3

wanting to hear it again, whatever it was.

The weekend was over, finally. I was with the crew walking to school. I told them all about my experience at the witch’s house. I explained how she floated and you could not see her feet or tracks. How she appeared in a cloud of smoke, how cold her hand was when she touched the pumpkin. She looked so real, with the big black bump on her long crooked nose, the long black fingernails, and the green and black glaring eyes! Then I told them that she knows who we are. They all laughed at me and called me a scaredy cat and “meowed” while walking to their classes.

I rushed home from school - it was

the day we carve the pumpkins when dad comes in from work. I went to my room, put my things up and laid on my bed reading a comic book. There it was again: “Don’t carve the pumpkins for your life will change!” “Who said that?” “It’s me, Zachary the tarantula, I am under your bed.”

I slowly slid off my bed and knelt down to look. He started running towards me. I screamed, frightened. He had blue eyes. “What is this?” I said. The witch cursed me, I am seeing and hearing things.

Zachary cried out, “Please don’t kill me, yes I can talk. I was once an eight-year-old boy just like you. Me and my friends used to kick over her garbage cans and egg her house. You are not cursed yet; if you carve the pumpkins you will end up like me, or my friends.

They became spiders or something else; I haven’t seen all of them in years. I have been missing for over fifty years. I know my parents are gone: they never had any more children after I went missing.”

Zachary then explained, “I jumped on your pumpkin riding home with you. It’s too late for me, however, if I can help you and your friends that would be great! I have been hiding at the witch’s house since the spell, hoping to find a cure. When I heard her whispering over your pumpkins; I had to warn you. You must tell your friends about the spell the witch casts over the pumpkins.”

“They won’t believe me. When I told them what happened at the patch last weekend they all laughed and called me a scaredy cat.”

I started thinking I would tell my parents I wanted to draw the faces instead of carving them. Then I’ll call each crew member and let them know about the curse. “No matter if they believe me or not I have to try.” I thought to myself, “She is a real Witch.”

Truth or Lies is an original column written by Felicia Wilbert. Every short story published under the column is either “truth” (fiction) or “lies” (non-fiction). Readers have to wait until the November 1 issue to check if “Zachary the Spider” is truth or lies!



OCED launches low income household water assistance program

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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Collaborative solutions for a promising future

WASHTENAW COUNTY LIHWAP PROGRAM

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CLIENT ELIGIBILITY

- A residential account holder
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- At or below 150% Federal Poverty Limit

A LIHWAP payment will guarantee service for at least 90 days after receipt of payment

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Up to \$650 in direct payment assistance
- Assistance w/ paying past due water bills or fees to reconnect services when they are shut off

Participating Providers

- City of Dexter
- City of Milan
- City of Saline
- Superior Township
- Sylvan Township
- Village of Manchester
- Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA)

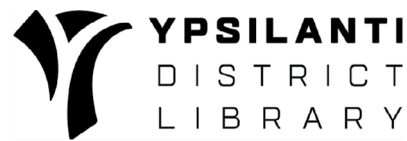
To see an updated provider list, visit Washtenaw.org/LIHWAP

150% Federal Poverty Chart

# of Household Members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income Limit Annual	\$20,385	\$27,465	\$34,545	\$41,625	\$48,705	\$55,785	\$62,865	\$74,665
Income Limit Monthly	\$1,699	\$2,289	\$2,879	\$3,469	\$4,059	\$4,649	\$5,239	\$6,222

APPLY ONLINE: washtenaw.org/lihwap

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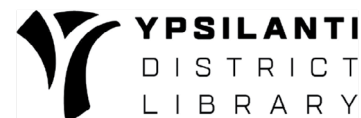
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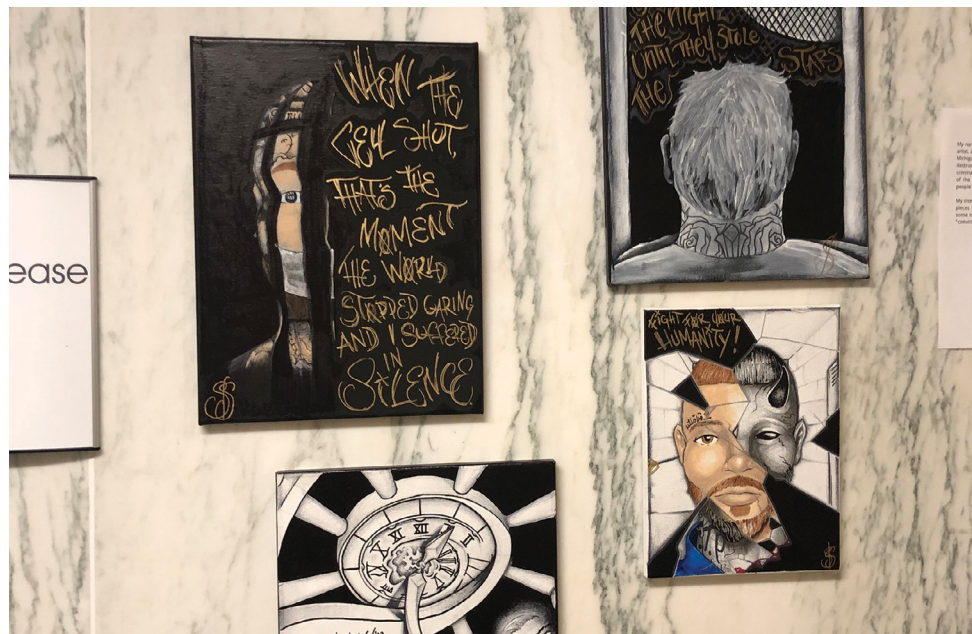
FEATURED EVENT

YPSIGLOW/HALLOWEEN DOWNTOWN
Oct. 28, starting at 5:30pm
YDL-Michigan
Trick or treat in the Library Plaza with music, sweet treats, and a visit to the haunted BOO(lk)mobile. Join the glowing crowd as we walk to YpsiGLOW at 6:45pm. Generously sponsored by Spark East.





Left: This miniature room greets people coming up the stairs to the second floor where RE:CLAIM artwork on exhibit is held. **One of the books on the shelf bears the title "Greek Myths." Right:** Artist Ryan Woodruff, formerly incarcerated for 15 years, says about this artwork: "...digging deep for them tapped into some traumas that I had not anticipated."



Rooted Exhibition RE:CLAIMs the court system

CYNTHIA PRICE
Editor

What would it take to reclaim what has been taken away from the community by incarceration and our system of punishment?

The current installation at the Washtenaw County Trial Court building at 101 E. Huron St. in Ann Arbor reflects on that question through visual means, from art to photography to videos of the spoken word to an exhibit about what rap artists have said about incarceration. Called RE:CLAIM, the exhibition is the brainchild of Heather Martin, Founding Director of Youth Arts Alliance, and Judge Tracy Van den Bergh.

Judge Van den Bergh wanted to create something to foster community connectivity and when she was put in touch with Martin, art came to mind. Martin recruited four other organizations to lead the charge: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ), Washtenaw County My Brother's Keeper, Amplify Project and Title Track. The collaboration went well and produced lasting relationships. "Each person has their own giftings. I worked on administration and social media, others on the art and music, others on spreading the word," says Jenny Jones, co-director of Title Track (a statewide non-profit started by singer-songwriter Seth Bernard to "engage creative practice to build resilient social-ecological systems...").

The five groups collaborated with Judge Van den Bergh and other judges, plus a long list of partnering organizations and artists, to fill the courthouse with reminders of how the carceral system impacts so many lives. They also coordinated three

evening events held at the courthouse during September to further support the messages in the visual arts.

RE:CLAIM stands for Rooted Exhibition: Community, Love, Abundance, Intergenerational, Multiplicity. The emphasis on the positive aspects of the artists' expressions is deliberate, and it is clearly authentically rooted in this community.

One major purpose of RE:CLAIM is to draw people's attention to the discrepancies within the court system, get them to think, and start a larger conversation. As Jenny Jones explains, "We're trying to reach some of the people who might spend time on Main Street being entertained and taking in some dinner, while three blocks away all these things are happening to people, with the message that there are all kinds of stories in this community. We have a really big responsibility to listen to these other stories and understand that not everyone is 'cookie cutter.' The events were particularly good for that."

Another purpose, as stated by ICPJ Co-Director Desirae Simmons, is "the idea of thinking about how we can imagine and reclaim spaces that are actually our spaces. We're reclaiming this court space with our arts and our bodies. That was important to us." She says everyone involved hopes the community conversation continues.

In Chief Judge Carol Kuhnke's courtroom, a centered row of photographs shows eerie images in grayscale. They were produced using an old technology: pinhole photography, where photographic paper receives images captured through a very small hole. Why? The photos were created by incarcerated youth, and there are many constraints on what technology they can have. The results show an

amazing range of creativity considering the limitations.

Similarly, YAA Teaching Artist Yusuf Lateef (pictured page 7) helped young artists at Ypsilanti's Parkridge Community Center summer camp to express themselves through abstract painting. Some of these are being shown in Judge Van den Bergh's courtroom. Lateef, who has been with YAA for eight years, commented, "We think it's important to take over municipal spaces, with art or other means, to reimagine them."

Amusingly, the crew has recreated an old-fashioned phone booth and invites visitors to phone in their impressions — right in the middle of the court's hallway.

The in-person events drew nice crowds and featured music and refreshments. Simmons tells of one

guest who said, "You have to give me a moment. I've never been in this place by choice."

One of the artists, Katt Kidder, stated on social media that it felt disjunct to have people coming in just to look at art in the face of the misery that being in court causes people, but ultimately reconciled that by creating a piece specifically for "the ones who aren't seeing this art willingly." Kidder added, "The message is accountability to that same humanity."

The exhibit is expected to be up until October 24 provided maintenance to the courthouse doesn't cause it to be taken down earlier. To keep abreast of changes in the timeline as well as to continue to join the conversation, follow ReClaim Washtenaw on Facebook, www.facebook.com/ReclaimWashtenaw

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Please visit the church website at: bethlehem-ucc.org for the most up-to-date calendar and event information.



Sunday Worship Time
10:00 am In-person
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Left: Yusuf Lateef is a Teaching Artist for the Youth Arts Alliance and co-curated the RE:CLAIM exhibit. **Middle:** Speaking at the Sept. 30 reception were, left to right: Jenny Jones of Title Track, who emceed; Desirae Simmons of the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice; and Heather Martin, Youth Arts Alliance. **Top right:** These examples of pinhole photography line the walls of Chief Judge Carol Kuhnke's courtroom. **Bottom right:** Participants from the Washtenaw County Youth Center created this piece after a fiber arts workshop with Youth Arts Alliance Teaching Artist Sicily McRaven.

It's Time for a Change! Eric Lipson, Independent for Mayor of Ann Arbor

I believe that our city must:

Provide housing that's safe and accessible to everyone

- Increase affordable housing options so our teachers, nurses, and service workers can live here. Cooperatives are a real answer to affordability.
- Protect the health and safety of our 50,000 renters by adding rental housing inspectors. There are only 5 inspectors for 25,000 rental housing units!
- Eliminate loopholes in the Early Leasing Ordinance to help renters.

Start by taking much more responsibility for basic necessities

- Lead the city to do much more for climate action, not just ask residents to retrofit their houses and pay more taxes.
- Prevent problems caused by lack of planning that have caused poor roads, over-taxed infra-

structure, and flooded basements.

- Use existing millage money to purchase environmentally-sensitive properties such as Concord Pines, where hundreds of trees were destroyed.
- Address the threat of the Dioxane plume to our drinking water. The mayor opposed applying for EPA Superfund status for years.

Make Ann Arbor government more transparent, effective and equitable

- Recruit minorities to achieve Diversity, Equity and Inclusion goals in hiring and promotion of city staff to correct the city's shameful past track record on minority hiring and promotion.
- Adopt conflict-of-interest and financial disclosure rules for mayor and Council that set forth clear ethics standards.
- Enact nonpartisan city elections to enfranchise students and others who do not vote in the August Primary. Nonpartisan elections were vetoed twice by the current mayor.



ERIC LIPSON

Independent for Mayor of Ann Arbor



PO Box 8035 • Ann Arbor, MI 48107 / Learn more at ericlipson4mayor.com or use the QR code

Megaphone's Climate Disaster Project: “It’s a shame that it took something drastic to realize that people needed help”

Western North America Heatwave, 2021 (East Vancouver, Canada).

Julie Chapman is a writer and vendor for the street paper Megaphone magazine. She has worked for the organization since 2002, when she entered its annual photography contest called Hope in Shadows. She grew up in Kitsilano and moved to the Downtown Eastside in the early 2000s, after having two sons and ending a 10-year relationship.

She lives alone in supportive housing and spends a lot of time with her two cats.

“I sound like an old lady almost, but yeah, my cats are so supportive and so therapeutic for me. It’s amazing. It’s got me through a lot of times for sure,” says Julie.

She also plays music in her spare time, on an upright piano that was gifted to her many years ago. A versatile writer, she often puts her poetry to music.

When the heat dome broke out, she was working as a peer support outreach worker for Sex Workers United Against Violence, an organization that fights for the rights of sex workers in Vancouver. At the time, she was doing her usual work: peer support, outreach and checking up on members of her community.

...

It was a different kind of heat. Not just hot. It was really heavy. It took the wind right out of you, almost. I’d be in a cool shower – probably a couple hours at least — and as soon as I’d get out, it’d be hot again. It was tiresome. It took a toll on people. It was really hard to function normally on a good day, because you didn’t have that energy factor and it was so hot all day and night. You didn’t want to do anything. You just want to sit there and do nothing.

Plus you could see the heat dome, because my place faces the mountains. Once the heat came in, it trapped all the smoky air from the forest fires. Even for me, and I’m not asthmatic. I could feel the heaviness of it in my chest. There was that smoky smell in the air, as well. Sometimes I’d get a little bit of a sore throat if I would go outside for a while. It was not normal at all.

A lot of people were having health issues. I saw a lot of people were taken away in ambulances. I never did find



JULIE CHAPMAN
Megaphone vendor

out if they were okay or not. I have no idea what the statistics or numbers were, but I know there was a lot more than usual. Not just overdoses, but from heat exhaustion and sun stroke.

It hit a lot of people in vulnerable positions very hard. My co-workers and I were trying to check in with people, because a lot of the time they wouldn’t want to ask for support. We’re specifically trying to support sex trade workers, helping them out, going to streets that people don’t know about, or that are industrial. People don’t walk down those roads at all. It’s isolated and people don’t think to go check in on the women and trans people that are working down there.

If they had any signs of any sunstroke, or anything like that, we would say, “Do you think you’d be strong enough to be able to come walk to the drop-in centre and come and hang out for a little while, get some water? You don’t have to stay there long if you don’t want to. We’ll walk with you, we’ll take you there.” If you left them on their own, they probably wouldn’t have gone, and we don’t want to leave them there. They probably would’ve been OK, but why take that chance? “Probably” isn’t good enough to me. They need to be safe.

The heat dome caught people off guard. I remember the city workers were scrambling around, trying to set up cooling stations because they realized how hot it was. People that are stuck out in the street don’t have a place to go into to cool down or get water. Water was the main issue.

They built some drinking fountains out here. It was a great thought, but it didn’t last too long. People would do stupid things like take the pipes out, thinking they could get copper piping out of it or something to cash in, or they would get overused, and they would break down. The city didn’t have the capacity to keep up with it. It’s just a money pit to them. But that’s people’s lives also. How do you put a



ELENI VLAHIOTIS
Freelance journalist

price on that? I can’t.

People, when they’re put in a difficult situation, can be very honourable and compassionate. People that didn’t reach out before were making extra effort, checking in with people, because they knew they weren’t doing the best. I would see people going and buying cases of bottled water at London Drugs and then start handing out bottles to people on the block. Just doing a good deed. Just having that human touch — somebody that actually gives a darn — means the world to some people, because they don’t have anybody, or they isolate. To them that’s everything.

It’s too bad it takes something bad or disastrous to have that happen. It bothers me a lot. I can’t help everybody, and I can only help those who want to be helped. And unfortunately, it’s overwhelming at times, but I’m still going to keep doing what I’m doing: asking people how they are and if they need anything. Just seems like a no-win situation sometimes. But, I guess it’s better than nothing.

Once it was over with, all that extra outreach, poof, disappeared, as fast as they came in. I thought, “Wow, that’s pretty bad.” I mean, it’s good they wanted to help, but it’s bad that they just disappear again. They need that help all the time down here. It’s not just in these hot times; all year ’round

people need this support. It was bitter-sweet. Hopefully, it brought more awareness to the neighbourhood, that people need that help all the time, not just during a heat wave or a heat dome.

The heat dome made me a lot more aware of climate change. I mean, I’ve always heard about it, but it made it that much more real, when it was right there. You can’t ignore it, because you’re in it. And maybe it’s gone now, but it’s not really gone. It’s still a problem, even if it doesn’t feel like a problem now.

It’s a lot of survivors down here, so it’s one more thing thrown in their way. People are wrapped up in their own stuff, and they’re trying to figure out where to stay, never mind a meal. To them, climate change is not really something they think about a lot, because they have other issues. A lot of people are worrying about the basics: where they’re going to get their next meal, have a shower, get clean clothes, somewhere they can sleep that’s relatively safe and welcoming.

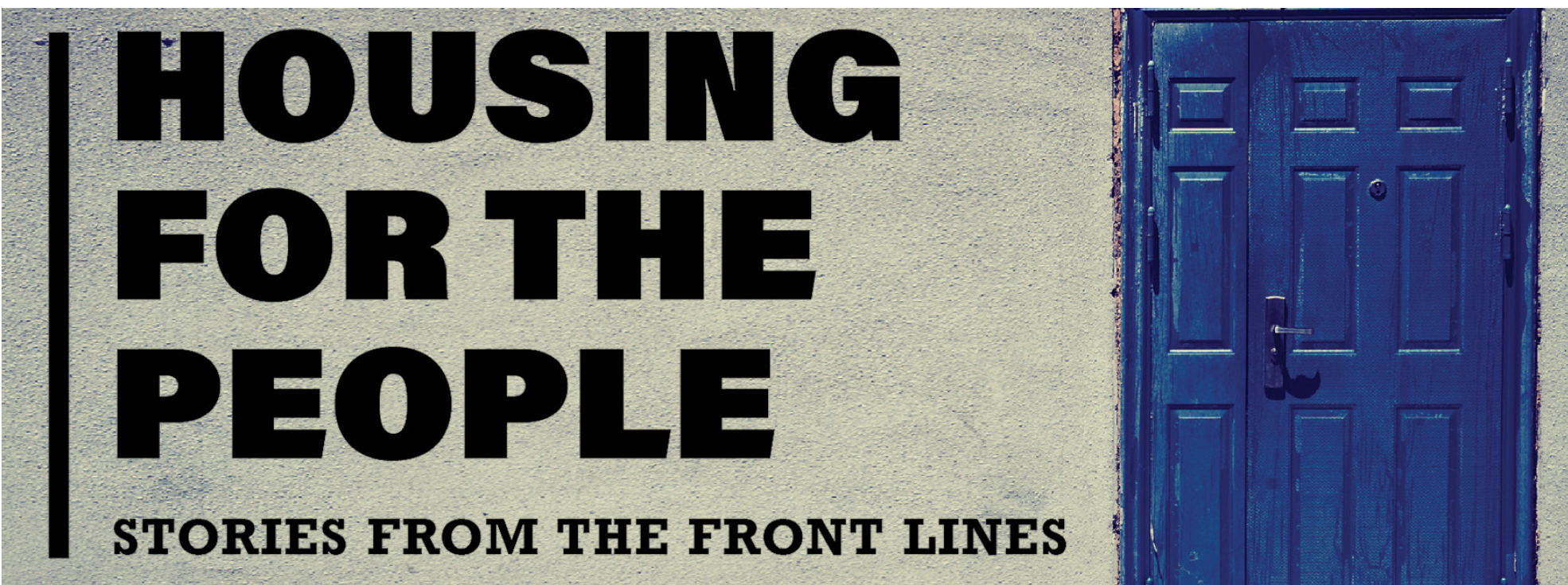
They have a lot more on their mind, because they’re living day-to-day just to survive, right now. To them, it’s not a real big priority. You think it should be a given, but a lot of the time, just to have one meal, people have to fight. It’s just not in their priorities. They just need to make sure they’re going to get to the next day, never mind what’s far in the future.

Eleni Vlahiotis is a recent graduate of the University of British Columbia’s journalism school. She’s an editor with The Conversation Canada, as well as a freelance journalist and essayist who writes on feminism, media, politics and culture.

Courtesy of Megaphone / International Network of Street Papers



CLIMATE DISASTER PROJECT



The landlord greed machine

Street Roots (street paper in Portland, Ore.) vendor Bronwyn Jones Carver has been homeless since a landlord tried to raise her rent by nearly 100 per cent in 2015. Approaching seven years on the streets, she’s learned to adapt and reach for new heights.

My name is Bronwyn Jones Carver. I have been homeless for seven years this June.

At the time, Portland was just starting to experience the landlord greed machine as they raised rents by ridiculous amounts. I was no exception to this. My two-bedroom apartment in inner southeast Portland — where I had lived for 15 years, raised a family, buried pets and planted flowers — became a casualty of said greed.

I paid \$850 a month, and the landlord’s son wanted to raise it to \$1,625.

The increase was not acceptable, let alone affordable. I worked a job I would soon leave due to the burden of high stress. My husband was not employed at the time. I agonized over the impending no-cause eviction. It was June 2015.

We went to court to try to mediate an agreement. We had been late twice in the previous five years and could not understand why this was happening. Court was a joke. The judge sided with the landlord and told us we could reapply at the new price of \$1,625. Our other option was to vacate voluntarily by June and avoid a formal eviction.

Needless to say, we vacated. My husband and I moved into our minivan with our three cats in tow.

I tried to make it a positive thing, some kind of adventure we were setting out to encounter.

I couldn’t have been more wrong.

That summer, we dealt with extreme heat, and I did not know how to cool us down. As the summer moved into fall, we continued to live in the van.



BRONWYN JONES CARVER
Street Roots vendor

We would park for as long as we could in various spots away from the public’s view, so as to maintain some form of privacy. Portland Bureau of Transportation, commonly referred to as PBOT, seemed to be following us. Each time we found a new spot that seemed out of the way, they would post us for removal.

Each time, we packed up and off we went in search of another spot.

As fall turned to winter and the rain came, we discovered the places our van leaked. We discovered how the cat litter would get soaked and spread everywhere. When the cold snap hit and temperatures got so low — into single digits — my husband, myself and our three cats laid under a pile of blankets, shivering and praying we not die that night. It was horrible. Neither of us had any idea how to stay warm.

Our van was slowly starting to have mechanical issues, mostly struggling to start, and PBOT was hot on our bumper, posting those green notices everywhere we parked. Nowhere was safe.

I began to get really depressed. The husband and I started to bicker over stupid things. The stress of living in the van in such a tight space was unraveling our marriage.

The cold continued, and the snow that started to fall added to the frigid temperature in the van. I worried for

the cats more than myself and my spouse. We then saw the Mister Buddy indoor heater another friend used inside their tent. That little heater saved our lives, I am sure. The radiant propane heat was so warm. I can still remember how good that first bit of heat felt on the body. The cats stopped shivering, and it helped to dry the inside of the van.

After two years of PBOT chasing us around Portland and placing those green stickers on our windows demanding we move, the van was no longer registered. My husband and I were unemployed, so there was no money to register the vehicle.

One Thursday afternoon, PBOT caught up to us. We had parked the van in a spot we thought was OK. It turns out that once you are issued the green notice to move your vehicle, PBOT then excludes you from the “zone” where you have been stickered. However, there is no mention of this on those green stickers, and I found it impossible to decipher what zone I was in.

The police also showed up and asked how long I needed to remove my contents. I said, “an hour,” to which the officer replied, “I will give you 30 minutes.”

“Then why did you ask me if you already knew how much time you were going to give me?” I responded.

I was livid. I scrambled to get as much out as I could. Then the cats and I watched our home for those two years get towed away. I cried so very hard that night as we lay under a tarp in the parking lot in the rain. The next day, my husband came up with a tent and set up a camp for us. That was 2017. We have been camping since.

Housing is not really a dream for me. I have a travel trailer now. I got it for free, and it is in great condition. I will

be living in the camper as soon as I find a place where PBOT will not hassle me.

There are times, though, when I mourn the apartment where my daughters grew up. I miss the color of the living room and how warm and inviting it looked from outside the window. I reminisce about celebrating the highs and getting through the lows together.

I don’t know what the immediate future holds. My husband and I are trying to work things out, as we separated for the last two years. My mental health was a subtle killer as I allowed it to run my life, succumbing to the negative speak and being negative all the time. This was a huge factor in my husband’s “taking a break.”

I have worked on myself to be a better person, and I am. I owe so much to Street Roots for giving me the opportunity to submit my poetry, which they print, as well as attending the Mobile Journalism and Communications program, which will give me the tools to write for Street Roots and other publications.

I already pitched my first freelance story outside of Street Roots in late February. The pitch was accepted and published by a digital publication.

Writing is my everything, and I give it my everything. I write because I must. It helps to deal with the reality that is my life. I love when my husband, family, and those at Street Roots who believed in me and my words are proud of my work.

I, too, beam with pride.

Housing for the People is a column produced by the International Network of Street Papers from people on the frontlines of the housing justice movement in America and beyond.

Courtesy of INSP North America / International Network of Street Papers

SHELTER
Robert J Delonis Center
312 W Huron St.
734-662-2829

Housing Access for
Washtenaw County (HAWC)
734-961-1999
M-F: 8:30am-5pm

Safehouse
4100 Clark Rd.
24 hr crisis/help line: 734-995-5444
M-F: 9am-5pm



HOT MEALS
Robert J Delonis Center
312 W Huron St.
734-662-2829
Lunch: M-F 12-1pm, Sat & Sun 3-4pm
Dinner: M-F 5:30-6:30pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
306 N Division St.
734-663-0518
Breakfast: 7:30-8:30am, 7 days a wk



MENTAL HEALTH
Community Mental Health
555 Towner St. (Ypsilanti)
M-F: 8:30am-5pm
CRISIS HOTLINE: 734-544-3050



COMMUNITY SERVICES
Friends in Deed
1196 Ecorse Rd. (Ypsilanti)
Help Line: 734-484-4357
Circles Line: 734-340-9042
Administrative Line: 734-485-7658
Helpline@FriendsinDeedMI.org

SOS Community Services
114 N River St. (Ypsilanti)
734-484-5411



LEGAL SUPPORT
Legal Services of
South Central Michigan
15 S. Washington St. (Ypsilanti)
734-665-6181
M-F: 9am-5pm

Washtenaw County Prosecutor's
Conviction Integrity & Expungement
Unit (CIEU)
888-783-8190
M-Th: 9am-5pm, F: 9am-1pm
CIEU@washtenaw.org
expungement@mwse.org



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
Michigan Works
304 Harriet St. (Ypsilanti)
Mon, Wed, Fri: 8am-5pm
Tues: 8am-7pm
734-714-9814



SHOWERS/LAUNDRY
Mercy House
805 W Huron St.
734-678-9818
Sat breakfast 10am-2pm

Peace House Ypsi
706 Davis (Ypsilanti)
734-754-0648

Journey of Faith New Beginnings
Homeless Ministry
1900 Manchester Rd.
734-945-7825
M-W by appointment
Fri food distribution



DRUG/ALCOHOL TREATMENT
Spera Detox
502 W Huron St.
734-669-8265

Home of New Vision's
Engagement Center
103 Arnet St. (Ypsilanti)
Open 24 hrs, 18+ years only
734-879-1101



COVID FUND ACCESS
OCED Barrier Buster
Emergency Funding
734-544-6748





Sudoku ★★★☆☆ 4puz.com

2	7						8	5
			7		8			
	3		5		6		2	
7	5	6				4	3	8
8	2	3				9	7	1
	9		2		1		6	
			3		7			
5	6						1	3

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover is a non-profit, and paper vendors are self-employed contractors, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following is our **Vendor Code of Conduct**, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

- Groundcover will be distributed for a voluntary donation. I agree not to ask for more than the cover price or solicit donations by any other means.
- When selling Groundcover, I will always have the current biweekly issue of Groundcover available for customer purchase.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper or selling past monthly issues.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers and refrain from wearing it or other Groundcover gear when engaged in other activities.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other

Groundcover vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff, and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor in downtown areas. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.
- I understand that Groundcover strives to be a paper that covers topics of homelessness and poverty while providing sources of income for the homeless. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.

If you would like to report a violation of the Vendor Code please email contact@groundcovernews.com or fill out the contact form on our website.

WORD SEARCH: PLANTS!

Z	E	A	H	F	U	S	T	E	T	S	P	U	D	T
C	A	S	S	I	A	Z	A	H	U	L	A	H	A	B
M	U	S	A	T	R	W	M	B	E	I	N	O	N	R
R	R	M	B	C	E	I	U	B	T	A	I	P	E	A
C	T	F	I	H	O	R	S	N	E	N	L	U	P	K
Y	I	M	G	N	I	L	U	B	H	E	R	B	R	E
M	C	A	G	R	A	P	E	W	O	R	T	E	M	F
A	A	R	C	U	O	O	A	A	L	P	I	A	A	K
D	O	R	N	T	L	I	I	P	N	S	S	I	D	A
D	I	A	P	S	N	R	C	P	O	D	W	H	I	N
E	B	M	A	E	A	R	W	O	R	T	E	B	A	S
R	E	I	L	C	R	W	A	G	R	T	A	R	O	M
H	R	L	I	I	D	S	K	C	A	N	E	T	A	X
G	I	F	R	K	N	E	E	H	O	L	L	Y	O	A
G	S	H	I	V	Y	G	E	U	M	S	E	D	G	E

WORD BANK:

Akee	Ers	Knee holly	Rue
Alpia	Ficaria	Liane	Rush
Anil	Fitch	Ling	Ruts
Aster	Fustet	Madder	Sedge
Bean	Gale	Madia	Sida
Beet	Geum	Marram	Sloe
Bigg	Gillenia	Musa	Spud
Box	Grapewort	Nard	Tamus
Brake	Grias	Nep	Taro
Cane	Hemp	Oat	Thea
Cassia	Herb	Oleander	Urtica
Corn	Hop	Opuntia	Whin
Cos	Iberis	Osier	Yam
Cumin	Iris	Pea	Zea

MATH PUZZLE

JAN GOMBERT, GROUND COVER CONTRIBUTOR

Express as many of the numbers from 1 to 20 using exactly four 4's together with addition (+), subtraction (-), multiplication (x), division (÷) and parentheses. No combinations (like 44) or other operations can be used.

Beet burgers

CAYLEN COLE

Groundcover contributor

Ingredients:

1/2 cup red onion (diced)
2 garlic cloves (minced)
1 cup grated beets
1 cup mushrooms (minced)
1/2 tsp smoked paprika
1/2 tsp dry mustard powder
1/2 tsp cumin
1/2 tsp coriander
1/4 tsp turmeric
1 1/2 cup black beans
1 cup cooked quinoa or rice
1 Tbsp ground flaxseed
1 Tbsp miso paste
1/2 cup oat flour (or ground quick oats)
1/2 cup walnuts (chopped fine)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375F.
2. Cook onions until translucent.
3. Add garlic and cook for another minute
4. Add beets, mushrooms and spices. Cook until vegetables are soft and all moisture is evaporated or absorbed.



5. In a large bowl, mash beans, grain, flaxseed and miso together.
6. Add cooked vegetables, walnuts, flaxseed and ground oats to mashed mix and combine thoroughly.
7. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
8. Remove from fridge and shape mixture into patties.
9. Bake patties on nonstick or parchment lined baking sheet for 15 minutes.
10. Remove, flip patties and cook for another 15 minutes (total cook time: 30 minutes).
11. Enjoy on a bun with toppings of your choosing!



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

"If God were your Father, you would love me,
for I came from God and am here;
I did not come on my own, but he sent me."
+ Christ Jesus (John 8:42)

Come Worship With Us!

Mass Schedule

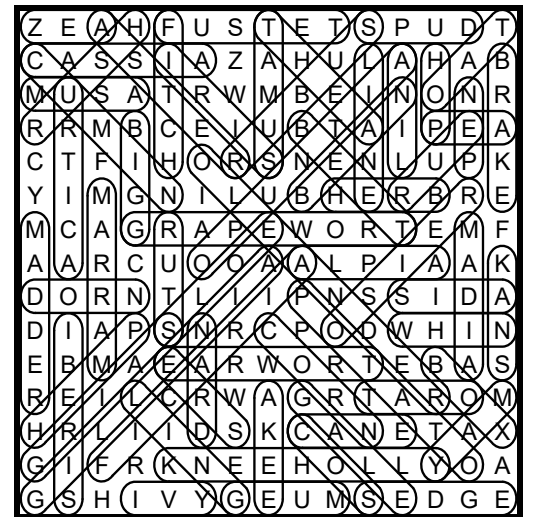
Saturday 5 pm (English) & 7 pm (Spanish)

Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am,
12:30 pm, 5 pm

2250 East Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor
www.StFrancisA2.com 734-821-2100

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

2	7	9	1	3	4	6	8	5
6	1	5	7	2	8	3	4	9
4	3	8	5	9	6	1	2	7
7	5	6	9	1	2	4	3	8
9	4	1	8	7	3	2	5	6
8	2	3	6	4	5	9	7	1
3	9	7	2	5	1	8	6	4
1	8	4	3	6	7	5	9	2
5	6	2	4	8	9	7	1	3



Math puzzle solution: All but 6 of the numbers can be expressed: $1 = (4+4)/(4+4)$, $2 = 4/(4+4/4)$, $3 = (4+4+4)/4$, $4 = 4 \times (4-4) + 4$, $5 = (4 \times 4 + 4)/4$, $6 = 4 + (4+4)/4$, $7 = 4 + 4 - 4/4$, $8 = 4 + 4 + 4 - 4$, $9 = 4/(4+4+4)$, $10 = n/a$, $11 = n/a$, $12 = (4-4/4) \times 4$, $13 = n/a$, $14 = n/a$, $15 = 4 \times 4 - (4/4)$, $16 = 4 \times 4 + 4 - 4$, $17 = 4 \times 4 + (4/4)$, $18 = n/a$, $19 = n/a$, $20 = 4 \times (4/4 + 4)$

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unique cards and
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Must present coupon at time of purchase

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12/31/2022

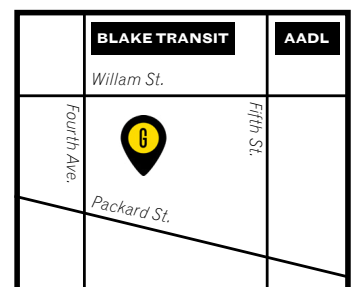
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- Join a supportive community
- Get started this week for FREE

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1:30 PM
@ THE GCN OFFICE.**

Trainings take 45 minutes.

New vendors will get a temporary badge and
10 free papers to start.



The Groundcover office is located in the basement of Bethlehem United Church of Christ
(423 S 4th Ave, downtown Ann Arbor)